

County of Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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November 16, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - SERVICE INTEGRATION  
BRANCH, REPORT ON CalWORKs CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY OF  
LOS ANGELES**

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) uses part of its single allocation for CalWORKs to conduct research in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Office – Service Integration Branch (CAO-SIB). CalWORKs serves the majority of children living in poverty in Los Angeles County, and provides critical access to health services through Medi-Cal Program and food security through the Food Stamp Program. Because of the immense number of children in CalWORKs, DPSS requested from the CAO-SIB the attached report.

The report, titled "CalWORKs Children in the County of Los Angeles," is primarily descriptive, and combines administrative data in a new way to tell us more about CalWORKs children than is typically included in our monthly reports to you or the state. Moreover, I expect the richness in detail to be of interest to you, policy makers in our department, and advocates in the community who are committed to improving the well being of children in Los Angeles County. Finally, our department views the report as essential groundwork for the development of future research on children.

The report provides information in three general areas: 1) A profile of CALWORKS children which provides descriptive demographic and background information for 2003; 2) Program characteristics in which data on the program experiences of CALWORKS children are examined; and 3) Issues shaping the long-term well-being of CALWORKS children.

The following are some key points contained in the report:

- ❖ More than three-fifths of CALWORKS children are located in Supervisorial Districts 1 and 2.

- ❖ The percentage of children in the CalWORKs caseload declined from 24.2% in 1998 to 17.8% in 2003.
- ❖ Cash-aided and unaided children in CalWORKs families have health insurance coverage through Medi-Cal Program, and represent the majority of children living in poverty in Los Angeles County.
- ❖ As seen nationally, child-only cases have increased as a larger portion of the CalWORKs caseload.
- ❖ Teen births in CALWORKS are more prevalent than teen births in the County as a whole.
- ❖ In 2003, approximately 13,000 children "aged out" of CALWORKS.

Our Department is reviewing this report to identify new information that could contribute to enhancements of services to the families we serve.

BY:mb

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors